

THE MCGILL GAZETTE

VOL. III.—NEW SERIES.

MONTREAL, MARCH 1, 1877.

No. 5.

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THE MCGILL GAZETTE is published Monthly during the College Year by the Undergraduates of the University. Terms, \$1.00 per annum; Single Copies, 20 Cents. For sale at Drysdale's, Dawson's, Hill's and Clark's. Subscriptions and Advertisements to be sent to the Secretary, McGill College. Contributions should be directed to the Editors, McGill College.

THE GAZETTE requests contributions of Tales, Essays, and all suitable Literary Matter from University men. It will open its columns to any controversial matter connected with the College, provided the communications are written in a gentlemanly manner.

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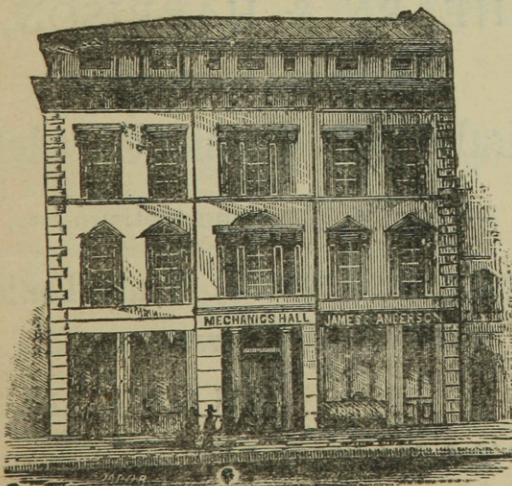
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THE LITTLE DRUMMER.

As Macdonald's army was crossing the Alps, a little drummer boy was carried over a precipice by a storm; he fell unhurt to the bottom of the gulf, and there, deep down amid the crushed forms of avalanches, the poor fellow stood beating the rapid strain which had so often rallied his companions.

Beat on! little drummer, thy call is unheeded;
Beat on! thy companions are deaf to thy call,
The sound of thy drum can no longer be needed,
And thou 'neath the snow-flake art destined to fall.

The clash of the sword and the musketry rattle
Were silenced erstwhile at the tap of thy drum,
Its sound oft decided a hardly fought battle,
But now it is powerless t' avert thy dark doom.

Tap! tap! went the drum, and the snow-covered vallies
Reechoed the sound that seemed weaker to grow,
But oft as the lost one his waning strength rallies,
The drum is heard louder from 'mid the deep snow.

The soldiers above hear the poor drummer calling.—
Alas, 'tis in vain they would lend him their aid,
For 'round them they see their companions are falling,
They know to sustain life their strength they will need.

Still fainter the call of the drummer ascended,
And weaker and weaker his little arms grew,
His comrades at last knew his miseries were ended,—
No longer they heard the drum sound 'mid the snow.

Blow on Alpine winds! for his soul has departed,
This body no longer can feel your chill breath;
Plunge on, rolling avalanche! your hopes have been thwarted,
Already he sleeps in the cold arms of death.

DARIUS WINTERTOWN.

A SONNET TO TATE.

I'm sad to night: my spirit's fading slow,
My heart is full, my hopes are growing dim;
The tears adown my cheek unbidden flow,
The future comes upon me fraught with wo,
And life seems wearisome, and joy a whim.
She whom I love and cherish and adore,
Whose every wish I sought t' anticipate,
In whom my life is centered,—she no more
Responds to my affection as of yore,
But leaves me sadly to my bitter fate!
Ah! pity me at least, if Love hath fled
The sacred temple of thy virgin heart:
Tate, Darling, Come! ere every hope hath sped,
Some solace to my flickering soul impart.

DARIUS WINTERTOWN.

MODERN LITERATURE.

In heading this essay with the above words unqualified or unexplained, we would lay ourselves open to the charge of attempting to compress within the limits of an article in a monthly magazine, what would furnish matter for volumes. What we wish to do is merely to turn over a few thoughts concerning the uses and tendencies of the modern forms of English Literature; and there can be no fitter occasion for such an attempt, than the inauguration of a new candidate for monthly honors, especially when it is considered how important a part in our modern Literature, such periodicals play.

It is owing entirely to such ready and such wide-reaching means of the people that the literature of our day differs so much in character from that of the times of earlier writers. *Then* the author penned his lines without a thought for the great mass of the people; *now* magazines, pamphlets, newspapers spread intelligence and independent thought among the toiling crowds of the city, among the rugged culturers of the soil; and that writer who cares to obtain a favorable hearing, must make his thought as clear to those whom he addresses as it is to himself. It is the difference which exists between a work prepared for the use of advanced and well-trained students, and a popular lecture; between a University text-book and a public-school primer.

No modern writer thinks of limiting himself to any stated mode of expression, such as epic, dramatic, lyric, etc. He knows that the great majority of his readers can not appreciate an attempt on his part to confine his thoughts within given limits. We have not had a poem written during the last century which one may call an epic proper, excepting perhaps Bulwer's "King Arthur," we have not even had a poet excepting Tennyson but who has also written in prose.

What are the advantages of the present Literary expression? They are the advantages which the free citizen of a mighty Empire possesses over the enslaved and superstitious subject of an eastern despot, over the trembling inhabitant of a priest-ridden State. Happy, respected and independent can the writer now live; not hanging on the capricious favour of a patron, nor compelled to force thought to run in the narrow channel prescribed by orthodox power. No one who is now able to use a pen can languish in neglect, where so many and as varied openings lie before him. No Chatterton now-a-days sinks into a self-sought grave; no Burns after one swift flash dies of neglect and vexation; no Johnson spends a youth in want and disease until he contract habits which terrify and disgust those around him; and where a genius like Edgar Poe dies after shaming and disgracing his lofty abilities, it is only when the friends which these abilities drew toward him have again and again failed in earnest attempts to draw him from his lower nature. And not only to authors do our multiform periodicals ensure hearing and reward; permeating through every throbbing pore of the nation, they educate and purify, and give to the hard-working men and women something of enjoyment for the moment and hope for the future; and though there is another side to this picture in the shape of low novels and other worse prints, yet these, the darker

faces of our hydra-headed literature are only as the passing clouds which obscure for a moment the face of the sun.

Men may obtain also in the pages of the magazine or newspaper that training which is almost indispensable, according to modern views, to becoming a successful writer. We say according to modern views, because we cannot help remembering that Milton's first production was the Hymn on the morning of Christ's nativity, and that the famous essay on that great poet was one of the first attempts of Macaulay. These were not ordinary men however, and whether indispensable or not, practice in writing is always useful, and it is much pleasanter to obtain it where it costs one little, than to publish a book and find it fail—fail utterly and stamp one with the mark of an unsuccessful writer. If a paper be sent to the editor of a magazine and be rejected, a person's sensitiveness is quieted by the knowledge that he alone is aware of the failure, and pride is consoled by the reflection that his individual judgment alone has found one wanting.

But, although we cannot question the great importance of so-easily found outlets to literary expression in regard to average writers and the world generally, and must acknowledge that many a valuable thought and happy phrase, the production of men who may never be again heard from, are thus preserved, still there are other aspects in which the literature of the present may be viewed. Who can confidently deny that many a poem which might have opened the gates of fame to its writer, has been consigned to the flames in disgust after an adverse opinion from some addle-headed editor? Tom Hood's "Song of the Shirt" went begging for some time. Keats is supposed to have received a mortal blow from savage criticisms in the *Quarterly Review*.

That unity is strength is a truism; and in our opinion it holds good in literature as elsewhere. View the numberless short pieces, trifles thrown off on every possible occasion, in which our modern poets indulge; call up the tales and essays innumerable of our prose writers. Each little verse, if it be worthy of its author contains some happy thought, or line, is prompted by warmth of feeling or by a moment's inspiration; each essay must draw forth something of the mental strength of its writer. All very well in the present hour or day; each of these efforts adds to fame, to wealth perhaps, to self-confidence, if writers ever want self-confidence; but unless they be of such power as to go down to posterity by their own innate worth, as Campbell's fiery ballads, or Macaulay's Essays, who will read them fifty years hence? Certainly in all times have there been dabblers in literature who wrote short verses, and nothing but short verses, and even the greater poets of old have sometimes relaxed, but still for every short piece from Virgil, Dante, Spenser or Milton, we can show twenty from Byron, or Longfellow, or Tennyson; and with the inducements which modern writers have, we believe, that, had any of these great poets of former times lived in our whirling nineteenth century, they would have frittered away their strength in such ephemeral productions, as living men with their genius now do. Of course there are other causes why these ancient names tower over those of modern writers; they had that advantage over our contemporaries which a painter well prepared for work, has over one chalking pictures on an old barn-door: they had *clean canvas*, and their readers had less reason and a freer imagination than we have, and therefore received impressions more readily.

The great feature of the age not only in literature but in everything, is the readiness with which ability finds vent. Children whose youth gives evidence of a particular bias, are

generally not only allowed but encouraged to choose that business or profession for which they have a desire. Even the traditional wish of the obstinate Scotch farmer to see his son wag his pow in a pulpit has given way somewhat before the influence of the age, and a clever son is permitted to wag his pow where he pleases. David Wilkie would surely have been a minister if he had been his own great-grand-father, so to speak; but now genius of whatever kind is usually able to shape its own course. We say genius of *whatever kind* because we believe that genius is merely supeminent ability in some particular line.

Samuel Johnson we think, said that genius was great general ability turned by accident in some special direction; and Craik, in his "History of English Literature" repeats and endorses the definition. Now this remark, if true, may mean that even after the faculties of a man of genius have been directed towards some particular object, he may yet remain in possession of general ability; or it may infer that once exclusively devoted to that object he can be only a fool in reference to any other matter. If the first view be correct, how comes it that Shakespeare was not a good actor, that Oliver Goldsmith was plucked at college, and was such a failure all through life? Why did Blackstone become so famous as a lawyer and yet write epics which are a byword and a scoff? Why did Hogg lose as a sheep farmer all the money he made as a poet? And finally how was it that Wellington, of such military genius, was declared by the *vox populi* to be so bad a statesman that he was compelled to barricade his house against an infuriated mob. Again, if the second supposition be the true one, we can cite against it the names of Cæsar, general, historian, statesman; of Milton, poet, debator, statesman; of Bonaparte, of Sheridan, of a host of others. Nearly every prominent man in Grecian history was at once orator, statesman and soldier. In all the instances we have given, however, one trait of character predominates over the others; and this is where the genius of the man lies; but, if Johnson's definition were true, the possessor of genius would be equally great in everything he attempted. Other facts militating against such a view are to be found in the peculiarities of literary genius. The great soldier, the great statesman, scientist, philosopher, seem to us to differ entirely in character from great literary men. The faculties which make a successful writer seem to be altogether apart from the remainder of his character. Pope's name comes down to us in the halo of poetical fame; and when we look back through the years, and trace his earthly career through its windings, we see a peevish invalid, half pitied, half despised, by those with whom he is in close contact; a little caricature of a human being, squabbling like a spoila child with the sharp-tongued Mary Wortley Montague; fult of petty animosity and useless chicanery. A youthful poacher marries a woman half as old again as himself, goes to Londonr becomes a second-class actor, then a manager; and were the, half-dozen greatest men whom this world produced placed side by side, this man would stand amongst them,—Shakespeare; whom his age regarded so little, that we have no certain record of his life or death; the authorship of his plays disputed even. A Goldsmith becomes a proverb for child-dishness, "talks like a parrot." Burns gives so little evidence of the poet in his home life, that his eldest son afterwards declares that he did not know his father had ever written anything, until he learned the truth from strangers.

And the rewards of the literary man are as uncertain and as varied as his productions; and often in this life he gets as little notice as they do, although if there be merit in man or work, he has little chance now-a-days of missing the mark so completely as some now famous names did during their life.

Of the great army which marches under the standard of literature, the majority are professional men, that is, are engaged as editors, journalists, etc., or contribute regularly and solely to periodicals. These have little regard for future fame; they are of this world, and get their reward entirely in this world. But others there are who set out with different ends in view, and though glad enough if part of their dreams be realized in their life-time, yet write with the resolve of gaining a foot hold on the slippery hill of fame. And even if they are partly rewarded before they are where the reward will not effect them, still the noblest return they can but hope for, since it is rarely granted to any human being to live in the certainty that for ages to come his name will be a household word in the land, and that his words will give pleasure and profit to thousands, long after his mortal frame has been consigned to some silent home of the dead. What a proud yet sweet and solemn thought it is, that hundreds of years after a man has quitted this sunny world, some human being may trace his steps with the reverent feelings of a favourite pupil, and the admiration of one who knows only of the qualities which secured fame, and not of the faults and failings of every-day life! How reverently the haughty front of a Byron is bared before the church in which lie some of Italy's great sons:—

"In Santa Croce's holy precincts lie
Ashes which make it holier, dust which is
Even in itself an immortality."

What is it that impels a young man, as yet knowing nothing whatever of his own mental calibre, to write, and to publish his writings? Apart from those almost inevitable productions, "Sonnets to his Mistress' Eyebrow," what induces him to set his thoughts, or very often his want of thought, upon paper? When a novelist—especially a lady novelist—brings forward a coming poet in his or her volumes, we have an impossible young man who astonishes all around him by his mighty intellect, and whose writings are intended to raise and educate the world with the abundance of a full mind and the lofty aims of a philosopher. Again, some stony Diogenes will tell you with a sneer that it is petty vanity and ambitious conceit which are the moving causes of the work. We do not incline to either of these opinions. It is difficult to discover high purposes in "Hours of Idleness," or in the earlier works of any great writer, excepting Milton, whose Muse set out with a purpose and a strength well worthy of all that she finally achieved. It is also difficult to perceive in "Pleasures of Memory," the first work of the wealthy banker, Rogers, any petty vanity. And if in a certain period of life a young man *will* write the sonnets before mentioned, he rarely desires to make them public. For our own part, therefore, we believe that the composing, in the first place, and then the anxiety to put in print, are owing to an inward instinct, similar to that which makes men soldiers or engineers when other and more profitable paths lie before them; an unconscious possession of mental power or aptitude. No hope of fame, of wealth, of reward of any kind could have actuated the nameless writers of historical chronicles who dreamed their lives away in the dim cloisters of the stone-built monasteries of Saxon England. And another instance of this writing for the love of writing is seen in Sterne's "Tristram Shandy." He began it intending to write two books every year while he lived, but he died very shortly after.

This same unreasoning desire to write also lets us into the secret, on the one hand, of the restless chaffing of eager spirits against failure, and on the other, to the quiet persistence which strives on in the hope of writing something the "world will not willingly let die"; it explains both the death of Chatterton and the life of Milton. It explains also why a

writer would compose poems and then give them to the world as a collection of translated Gaelic traditions, content to be thought of merely as a compiler of other men's thoughts, and why he persisted in denying to the last that these, the so-called poems of Ossian, were original pieces of his own. No reasonable supposition can account for the fact of Macpherson refusing to acknowledge them as his own. No lofty purpose can account for the lie; no petty vanity for the dislike to make a confession which would have shown him to be a poet as original as powerful.

Now, leaving aside the Old World with all its wealth of literature and glorious memories, we might turn to the New, comparatively so bare and practical, and look around at the literature of the present. But time does not now permit.

THEOLOGICAL DEGREES.

We must confess that we feel very thankful that an effort lately made—we know not by whom—to give the power of granting Theological degrees to McGill has been unsuccessful.

McGill University, it has been said time and again, is not a denominational institution, and though it is protestant in character, no one sect has ever acquired any undue predominance either in the management of the affairs of the University or in the privileges derived from it. To this fact we owe much of our past prosperity and success, and it would have been tantamount to suicidal to have introduced any regulation which could in the slightest possible degree create any open class feeling or excite any sectional strife amongst those to whom the government of the University is entrusted. In other colleges similar enactments, corresponding rights, have been productive of much harm, and no one who has the welfare of McGill at heart, can desire that she should become, on the one hand the scene of religious squabbles, or bitter sectional fights, or that she should on the other hand degenerate into a purely denominational College, puny, cramped, inactive as these must from the very nature of the case be. And yet, what would *have* been the effect of McGill being allowed to grant Theological degrees? It would in the first place have been an eternal struggle as to the requisites for examination, a discordant attempt to assimilate divergent dogmas and to amalgamate doctrines diametrically opposed, and then one sect having worsted the remainder, McGill would become simply a training school for clergymen instead of being what she is, what she was intended to be, and what we trust she long will be, an establishment for the advancement of education and learning, irrespective of creed or sect, but widely protestant in character.—As we have said, we are not aware who the originators of this scheme are, but who ever they may be they have received a decided check, and they know now if they did not before, that those in power in McGill have a proper conception of the aim of the founder, and entertain a higher idea of McGill's future than her existing as a sickly Theological Seminary.—The opinion of the enlightened press has been, we are thankful to say, against the proposal. One journal, ever hostile to McGill's interests, and which we suspect of some share in the late scheme, has attempted a justification of it, which is a bad endeavour to sustain a worse cause.—However, the proposition was rejected and a death-blow given to those who wish, for personal or party purposes to prostitute the University and its interests.

—Valedictorians for Arts and Science have just been elected. Messrs R. Robertson and Sproule, the respective appointees, will both do full justice to their duty.

THE MCGILL GAZETTE.

1st MARCH, 1877.

Editors for 1876-77.

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'78, J. ROSS.
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A JUNIOR."—Your communication cannot be noticed so long as you withhold your name. We would ask you, and some other of our friends to read and consider the directions on the cover, which are in all cases strictly adhered to by us.

B. A.—Notwithstanding your importunity, we cannot disgrace our columns by inserting your trash.

THE ANNUAL REPORT which the authorities of the University are required by law to make to the Governor General as Representative of the Crown, has been lately published, together with a financial statement. This Report gives some statistics as to the number of students etc., the figures being as follows:—

Students in Law.....	96
" in Medicine.....	140
" in Arts.....	164
	400

Or, deducting eight students entered in more than one faculty, in all 392. In Morrin College there are eleven full, and sixty occasional students, and these with 119 teachers in training in the Normal School, and 340 pupils of the Model School make up the whole number of persons receiving educational benefit from the University to be 922. Forty-eight degrees were conferred last year. After comparing these figures with those of previous years, the report goes on to refer to the completion of the catalogue of books in the library, which now number 12,813, and to the improvements effected in the Molson building. The illness of Dr. De Sola and the resignation of Professor Armstrong are then adverted to, and the appointment of Mr. Duff as Mathematical Tutor, is noticed. The report states, that "after carefully weighing the merits of the several candidates, the governors have decided on the appointment of Henry T. Borly C.E., M.A., of Cambridge, and at present Assistant Engineer on the Mersey Docks, to the Chair of Engineering and Applied Mechanics." We trust that this appointment will prove more satisfactory than some others mentioned in the report, and we hope that the principle of always inviting applications, and making appointments with all fairness will soon be made universal at McGill. In the past, several appointments have

shown signs of nepotism amongst the appointing body, and we must say that such conduct is by no means conducive to the welfare of the College. Instances of favoritism during the past two or three years could be adduced, where the best men were not appointed, where applications were never invited; but we hope nothing of the kind will occur in future. The University is a public institution, not a private concern, and as such, partiality and favour must be put out of the question in making appointments. The need of a new building for the Science School is then noticed, but want of funds is pleaded as the reason for inaction. The recent Act of the Quebec Legislature is then deplored as being iniquitous, and the satisfactory working of the Observatory under its able Superintendent, is touched upon. The report concludes by noticing the recent Board of Trade order, which we spoke of in our last number, and the inadequacy of the resources of the College is stated to be the only cause for sorrow on the part of the Governor. So much for the report which is satisfactory as far as it goes. Into the details of the Financial Statement we have neither the desire nor the space to enter. There are, however, one or two items to which we should like to refer. School Examinations we notice, have cost the University \$314.90. Now, this seems to us rather extravagant, and we might suggest that a small fee be exacted from each candidate which might cover the expenses of the Examination. Among the items of disbursements appear the following:—

College Buildings.....	\$944.40
College Repairs.....	531.46
Furniture and Fixtures.....	629.45

Now, when it is remembered that this financial statement extends from August 1875, to July 31st 1876, and that the plumbers' work in the library is not included in this account, these disbursements are inexplicable. A few petty changes have been made in the building, the Reading Room has been erected, but these would not make even a moiety of the above sums. But we forgot that the east-wing was "altered, repaired, furnished and fixed," for the reception of the Bursar and Secretary. We question very much whether in view of the "lack of funds" mentioned in the report, it was right for the Governors to sanction any such expenses as those mentioned. If the east-wing had been unfit for the requirements of this official and his family, if their wants were not met by the building as it was when Dr. Cornish left it, then we think it would have been more *en rapport* with the inadequacy of resources, for this individual to have secured some suitable residence in the city. But to spend any large sum in providing a nest for an already well-paid official is, simply wanton misuse of the money of the College. Had this money been appropriated to the arrangement of an office and laboratory for the Principal, every one would have pronounced it exceedingly well spent, but as it is, it has been

squandered. Again, the advertising account seems large, \$440.93, in addition to the printing account \$1,576.35. And here we might ask the person who distributes the advertisements, what possible use can there be in publishing the College calendar in a paper such as the *Public Health Magazine*, whose circulation is extremely limited, and whose columns have been devoted more than once to attacks on the College? The remainder of the statement is satisfactory, and the resources of the College save in these one or two cases, seem to have been carefully expended.

WE notice with pleasure the announcement, in the speech from the Throne, delivered on the 8th ult., in the House of Commons, that it is intended to bring in a bill to render the Geological Survey, hitherto carried on under temporary enactments, a distinct and permanent branch of the Civil Service. Legislation of this nature is always pleasing to notice. It evinces on the part of the government a desire for something more than that popularity gained by pandering to mere mercenary commercial exigencies, and it also shows that our rulers have a due and proper regard for this most necessary part of our Civil Service. By making the Survey a permanent institution, its efficiency and stability will be greatly increased; and of those reforms in the Civil Service, now talked of in political circles be carried out, in no case will they prove more beneficial than in the Geological Survey. The reform to which we refer particularly, is of course, the introduction of competitive examinations in assigning positions in the Service. More especially in scientific pursuits like the Survey, a man's political stripe and personal connections have to be left out of consideration, and appointments should be made by means of examinations which will test thoroughly the candidate's scientific attainments, experience and ability. If this projected bill becomes law and of course it will, unless press of work makes it share the fate of the "slaughtered innocents," it will give an impetus to scientific education, and thus directly benefit McGill which has the only Scientific School except the Military College, in Canada. McGill men will have something to look forward to, merit will be the criterion of appointment, not party connection, and a healthy tone will be given to this most important branch of exploration, which has of late not been quite so satisfactorily carried on as it might have been.

ALTHOUGH often a disagreeable and even painful task to read any thing that is at all dry, yet every one, when he has written an article answering to that description, is most anxious to have it read. This one is probably as dry as is the subject,—a subject, nevertheless, that has been much discussed and talked about, not only by the Board of editors, but also among University men in general. We refer to the establish-

ment of the *Gazette* as a permanent institution. Numerous plans and propositions have been, and are before us, regarding this important matter. A private letter received a short time ago from a prominent graduate of this city, mentioned a few points that he considered indispensable to success. That editors be elected by the students be general; that they be chosen from the senior classes; that all do not resign office at the close of one year; and that the paper be a semi-monthly. With regard to the first of these, viz: the election of editorial Boards, there is much to be said both *pro* and *con*. It ought to be an efficient means of creating a general interest in the paper, by making the students feel that its success is largely dependent on them, and on their choice of editors; unfortunately, experience teaches us differently. In many of the American colleges, the editors are selected by the Board of the previous year. Each Board passes out at Christmas; with regard to this, it would be obviously a successful plan for us to adopt. It would be well to have the retiring editors nominate their successors, and submit their choice to a general meeting of the students. Another very serious difficulty the *Gazette* has had to contend with, is that of keeping up its financial as well as its literary repute. The editors have hitherto had to provide not only copy, but also the necessary funds. Next year, it is proposed to obviate this by having a financial committee, thus allowing the editors proper to devote themselves entirely to the conduct of the paper. We hope, by these few remarks to draw forth the opinions of the students on this important matter, nor are we at all disinclined to listen to any advice our graduate friends may have to offer.

WE have been informed by members of the Foot-ball Club who have been attempting to collect subscriptions to aid the fifteen to go to Toronto in the spring, that the students in general are very apathetic, and that many of them ask what *they* have to do with the Foot-ball Club that they should be solicited for a subscription. Let us give a few reasons why they should subscribe. The Club is very strong (in players) at present, and will therefore do credit to the College; and any student who cares anything for his *Alma Mater* should be glad to see her foremost in athletic sports even if he does not care for such things himself. Secondly, by keeping up a college institution, and one so deserving as the Foot-ball Club, you produce a kindly feeling among the students, and make your own stay here more pleasant to yourself, and if you have any pride, you will be glad to be able to say that you belong to a college which takes a high rank in athletic affairs. We grant that such reasons are not mathematically convincing. But we think little of any student who has the meanness to contemptuously refuse to deny himself one concert, one night at the

theatre, one Turkish-bath, any petty enjoyment, for the sake of his brother students. One reason only for refusal we regard as valid, and that is because a student can really not afford it. There we have nothing to say.

WE observe that Mr. James Knowles, late of the "Contemporary Review," has established a new monthly called 'The Nineteenth Century.' The list of writers to the new review comprises the most eminent contributors to the "Contemporary" with many new names. Mr. Tennyson, Professor Huxley, Cardinal Manning, Dr. Martineau, Mr. Gladstone, and a brilliant galaxy of able writers have promised their aid. We hope to see 'The Nineteenth Century' in the Reading-room.

UNIVERSITY MEN IN PARLIAMENT.

Below will be found a statement compiled from "Morgan's Parliamentary Companion" of the number of University men in the Senate and House of Commons of Canada and in the Legislative Assembly of Quebec. McGill it will be seen, makes a very creditable show.

SENATE.	
McGill.....	1
Harvard.....	2
Cambridge (England).....	1
King's College—Fredricton.....	1
Laval.....	1
HOUSE OF COMMONS.	
McGill.....	8
Laval.....	7
Toronto.....	4
Victoria (Cobourg).....	5
Dartmouth.....	2
Queen's (Kingston).....	2

Harvard, King's (Windsor), New-York, Trinity (Dublin) Oxford, Dalhousie, Michigan, St. Andrew's (Scotland) London (England), Vermont, Edinburgh (Scotland), Acadia and Oberlin each one. Among these are a Moderator and Silver Medallist of Trinity (Dublin), two Honour Classics men of Toronto, and a Mathematical Medallist of Toronto.

In the Legislative Assembly of the province of Quebec the University men are as follows:—

McGill.....	9
Harvard.....	2
Bishop's.....	1
Paris.....	1

Of the McGill men, one (Hon. Dr. Church) took primary and final thesis prizes, whilst Mr. Lynch gained the Elizabeth Torrance Medal in Law. The above figures are significant.—They show us that McGill men have in the past attained high positions, and we trust they will serve to nerve present students to imitate and surpass the examples afforded them by old McGill men.

—The Reading-room Committee were lately the recipients of a number of photographs of graduating classes from Dr. Cornish, which, when suspended will add much to the appearance of the room.

SLANG.

It has always been very much the fashion, among those who approve an invariable use of polished manners and proper language, to decry the invention and employment of those spicy epithets and phrases that are popularly known as "slang." These persons would engraft upon familiar conversation the precision of language that befits a carefully written essay. They would destroy the peculiar charm of an every-day chat, by stripping off its old, easy covering, and dressing it up in the stiffest of prim costumes. They would turn familiarity into pedantry, and what is now delightful would become the dreariest of things dreary.

But no project for driving out slang will ever succeed; for there is, in the human mind, an innate love of such words that will always hold its own. Favorite phrases come into use and then disappear, sometimes keeping their hold on the popular taste for years, and sometimes living only a butterfly existence. The scale of merit on which they are marked is a very long one, and the highest point is almost out of sight of the lowest; for instance, the species of admiration expressed by the word "swell" is far above that which elicits the monosyllable "boss." But, whether of a high or low character, slang is one of those ingredients of "small talk" as necessary as wine to a good sauce. Its great office is to impart to conversation that familiar air that makes one feel that he is conversing out of pure pleasure, and not for the sake of avoiding a reputation for stupidity. When a friend stops you with "How you was," and begins to converse, you feel that there is no need of ceremony,—of polite interchange of inquiries regarding health &c. The chat is nonchalant, and for that, if for no other reason interesting. Of course, one never uses slang in conversing with a stranger, for, not knowing your other qualities, he would be apt to judge of your character by your facility in the use of slang,—a by no means desirable criterion. It is only with friends that you descend to this delightful species of vulgarity, and I always regard any one who addresses me in terms of slang as willing to repose confidence in me, a doubtful kind of confidence it may be said, a similar bond with that which joins thieves, a kind of "pal-"ship; but the connection is a pleasant one, and its wickedness extremely mild. In fact, slang is like a good ballet in a tiresome drama,—somewhat objectionable, perhaps, in point of good taste, but then it comes in so very pat.

But the whole office of slang does not consist in merely forwarding familiarity and good-fellowship. It has as wide a range as language itself. It is pre-eminently the dialect of the streets, and seems to flourish in the open air. It is the language of the Many to the One; of the crowd to an object of ridicule, or to an object of popular admiration. Indeed, all street wit is slang, and it is often very comical. Even a stale joke, when given out in the fresh air, seems to lose its Joe Miller properties. Theatre wit, too, is slangy. It is here that the squelching effect of an *apropos* bit of slang may be perceived. Imagine the feelings of George Rignold when, in the course of the beautiful love-scene between Catherine of France and Henry V., a chorus in the second gallery put in the refrain, "Yum! Yum! Yum! Oh, 'George!"

If we turn to places of more culture than the street or the theatre, we shall find that slang is equally indispensable there. How could Plautus or Juvenal be appreciated through

any other medium than that of the current street "lingo"? The most fertile mind would exhaust itself in fruitless efforts at translation were it not supplied by the ingenuity of newsboys and boot-blacks. But as plenty of slang new-coined, is always on hand, we are enabled to do full justice to the refined conversations of the old Romans. Even the vile atmosphere of a University recitation-room seems to grow lighter when we read of Nero, at the point of suicide exhorting himself to "brace up." And, therefore, in view of all these utilities, I call upon every boot-black, school-boy, student, horse-car-driver and Latin professor, to join me heartily in the verdict, that slang is "just immense."—*Harvard Advocate*.

UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY.

On Friday, the 16th ultimo, Mr. C. H. Stephens read a carefully prepared essay on "Public Speaking," which shewed extensive reading on this important subject. A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. S. for his paper; and it was suggested that as the attendance was rather small, the paper be read again and discussed by the Society. We trust the suggestion will be acted upon; and we predict not only a profitable and instructive evening, but a large attendance of students, all of whom have a direct interest in acquiring facility in what is now a *sine qua non* of every educated man—the art of public speaking. At the regular weekly meeting of the U.L.S., held on the 23rd ult., Mr. Monk's resignation of the Recording Secretaryship was considered and accepted. Mr. D. C. McLaren was unanimously elected to fill that office. Those present received a great and noble treat from the four essayists; all were so excellent it would be invidious to particularize.

COLLEGE WORLD.

—A Chair of Practical Theology, is to be established in the University of Berlin.

—Mr. Kikuchi, the nineteenth wrangler in the mathematical tripos at Cambridge, is a native of Japan.

—Mr. Froude, the historian, has accepted the nomination to the Lord Rectorship of the Glasgow University at the next election.

—A sum of £2,100 has been offered to the University of Glasgow as an endowment of a demonstrator of physiology in connection with the chair of institutes of medicine. The object of the endowment is the promotion of medical science, by the training of young men of suitable capacity to become teachers and investigators of physiology.

—Mr. McAlister, senior wrangler, and Mr. Rowe, third on the list, are both Nonconformists. This is the eighth time in eleven years that a Nonconformist has been senior wrangler. Another fact in connection with these examinations is, that this is the eighteenth time that the same gentleman (Mr. Routh) has been tutor to the senior wrangler.

—Mr. H. J. B. Marston, a blind gentleman, has obtained a first class in the examination for the degree of B.A., in classics and general literature, in the University of Durham, (England.) Mr. Marston obtained an open scholarship on entering, and during his academical career the Newby scholarship; he was University scholar, and obtained the prize for Hellenistic Greek.

EXCHANGES.

—The *Acadia Athenæum* well maintains the reputation of Canadian college journalism. The "Mosaics" are a novel feature, and the idea is one which might well be followed by other papers. The *Athenæum*, however, is rather too sweet upon its exchanges to be fairly critical.

—It is pleasant to handle such a paper as the Boston *University Beacon* and the contents are also pleasant. It opens with the assertion that "what we propose to contribute to these columns are not learned essays and wordy disquisitions of great length and equal stupidity." Bravo! A short essay headed "A sunset picture," is worthy of preservation.

—The *Tufts Collegian* contains but little matter for a paper issued monthly, but what it gives is good as to subject matter, and the style is better than that of any other college paper we have met with. We suspect that a single writer has a good deal to do with its columns, for such a clear and readable yet simple style is not often the common attribute of a Board of editors.

—We have generally avoided any attempt to review the larger magazines we find among our college exchanges, because we feel that it requires a somewhat extended notice to do justice to their contents; but having been struck by some articles in the *Cornell Review* for February, we make an exception to our usual rule in its favour. Passing over the paper upon "Latin Pronunciation," which seems to us to display learning far above that of our ordinary student, we come to a review of Nathaniel Hawthorne and his works, which gives on the whole, a fair, perhaps somewhat high estimate of that writer's genius. The essayist, however, seems to us to leave out entirely one great consideration in forming his judgment, he does not take the *power of amusing* into account at all. We believe that such a power combined with that of instructing, is the great end of a novel. The average reader rarely opens Hawthorne's volumes a second time, for they are but prose tragedies, and though he may appreciate the refined thought and delicate tints, yet he will be loath to retrace the hopeless downward course of characters so vividly personified. As to the article itself, it is well written and well connected, one of the few opinions to which we take exception is that pronouncing Hawthorne to be "undoubtedly the great genius in American Romance." Most undoubtedly he is *not*. The great genius in American romance is a man who died comparatively unregarded, who has never been fairly estimated—James Fenimore Cooper, whose name will yet be to Americans what Scott's is to Britons. A most reckless enthusiast is the writer of the paper on "Dante." He winds up thus: "In him we find the lofty flights of Homer, the melody of Virgil, the mysticism of Goethe; he is more vivid than Milton * * * * he (Dante) stands alone, unparalleled, unrivalled, unapproached." Leaving aside the "mysticism," a questionable attribute for any poet to possess, we think that had the writer of these words known as much of Homer, Virgil and Milton as he seems to know of Dante, he would never have penned these lines. They destroy all confidence in any opinion he may have previously expressed.

—Our Literary Society is flourishing in tropical luxuriance. The change that came over Pygmalion's statue seem to have spread, like the Moody and Sankey movement, to many a mute, inglorious Demosthenes.

THE LOST FLOWER.

I lost a flower, and I would give
To get that flower again,
The loveliest of the flowers that live
And laugh upon the plain.

'Tis not because its leaves were fair,
And perfume could impart,
That I would like those leaves to wear
The nearest to my heart;

It is because the girl who gave
The flower I lost to me,
Was livelier than the laughing wave
And lovelier than the lea.

The flower my lady gave is gone,
Its leaves I ne'er shall press;
But had I lost the flower alone
My sorrow had been less.

PERSONAL.

- '76 F. Jos. Bisailon B.C.L., was married last month.
- '76 Thos. Cream M.D., is walking hospital in London, Eng.
- '80 Klock has been obliged, owing to illness, to leave College.
- '75 W. Frank Scott, M.D., is at present in Ottawa, but intends, we hear, to go to Minnesota in the spring, there to practise.
- Mr. J. N. Greenshields has been lately admitted into partnership with Messrs MacMaster and Hall under the style of MacMaster, Hall & Greenshields. It is always pleasing to us to chronicle the progress of University men, and we wish Mr. Greenshields all success.
- '74 Major S. C. Stevenson, who, it will be remembered, acted as Secretary of the Quebec Centennial Commission, was lately the recipient of a flattering address, and a handsome gold watch and chain, from the Quebec exhibitors at the Exhibition, in recognition of his courtesy.
- Mr. Notman takes the class photographs this year.
- Freshman translating.—"Sic fatus est," "Such is fate."
- An auction of periodicals in the room will soon be held.
- Mr. Vandenhoff will not read under the Society's auspices this season.
- A junior translates "legaretur A. Gabinius," "Aulus Gabinius was left as a legacy."
- It is probable that a free lecture will be delivered before the Society by some Canadian statesman.
- Logic class.—Enterprising Soph,— "All fishes are not men." *Converted.*—"But some men are very queer fishes."
- In a late football match between Oxford and Cambridge played under association rules, the former won by one goal.
- We hear that several pupils of the Girls High School of Montreal, will come up for the School Examination in May.
- Original translation by a plucky Second-year man in French class—"Les enleveurs d'enfants." "The people who raised him."
- We fear the Faculty of Arts are beginning to realize 'how the money goes,' in the case of such little matters as students 'skating rinks.'
- To quote the words of one of the members, there has been 'anarchy and rebellion hurled into the very midst' of the Reading room Committee.
- The Hockey Club in their late match against the Montreal Club, acquitted themselves bravely, winning two games and their opponents one.—May they never do otherwise.

— We hear that some students propose to petition the Faculty to be allowed to enter the alcoves in the Library, and consult books without going through the forms now necessary.

—Examinations in Law and Medicine begin on the 8th. In the former Faculty extra precautions are being taken to prevent the miserable practice of cribbing, which we are very sorry to say was rather prevalent last year.

—The Irish Catholic prelates have communicated to Mr. Butt their intention to support his University Bill, and it is stated that this decision in its favour has created quite a sensation among the students of the Catholic University.

—There has been considerable excitement in England over the proposal to convert Owen's College into a University. Mr. Lowe has an article on the subject in the "Fortnightly" for February which we shall notice in our next number.

—The University Literary Society programmes are as follows:— March 9th, Reading, Essay and Debate. Subject: "Should Church Property be Exempt from Taxation." March 16th, Debate, subject not yet chosen. March 23rd, Conversazione at the Society's rooms.

—The Reading-room Committee decided to make a report to a general meeting of students, which will be called shortly. It is rumoured that there will be some lively discussion at the meeting, as grave dissensions have occurred between several of the members.

— A certain well-known second-year man, whose head seems to possess the traditional thickness of a negro's, has been exciting the terror and admiration of all beholders by his amateur exhibitions at the Gymnasium. He should sing "Just before the battle mother," previous to going there.

—In a private school in this city, the junior form in Geography were being questioned on Ontario, and were asked "What are the principal places of interest in Toronto?" None of the class knew, so to help them the teacher asked "What corresponds to 'McGill College' there?" When nearly round the class one bright youngster exclaimed "The Lunatic Asylum!!"

—The Glee Club concert came off on the evening of the 13 ult. Everything was done in the usual able manner of the Club. Great praise is due to Mr. Houghton for his untiring efforts in training his Club. Dr. Davies very kindly assisted at the organ. The evening passed off very pleasantly, and we can assure those students who were so conspicuous by their absence that they lost a great deal.

—A Soph's recipe for Cicero:—Take of subjunctives a very large lot

And, well mixed with gerundives
Throw them in the pot.
Add 'quums' in profusion
Then stir to confusion
And serve up the whole to
The populace, hot.

—As we go to press we are informed that part of the Bill of Hon. Mr. Mills, to which we refer editorially, stipulates that the Museum of the Geological Survey shall be removed to Ottawa. This created considerable opposition from Hon. Mr. Masson, feebly assisted by the city members. Montreal as the metropolis, as the chief educational centre and as the seat of commerce, deserves the Museum and it would be wrong to deprive her of it. The collection has been much used by McGill men, and would be a serious loss to the University.

—We are informed by a member of the Reading Room Committee that there is a considerable number of students who are in the habit of making use of the periodicals, and yet refuse to contribute anything to the funds of the Room. If a student cannot afford to pay, he can at least remain away from the Room. But it is the essence of meanness for any student to avail himself of the advantages and refuse to participate in the maintenance of this institution. We trust that every one to whom the above statement applies will immediately hand in his subscription to the Treasurer, Mr. Lafleur. The Committee have not the power to eject non-subscribers, and must rely solely on the honour of the students for funds, and we hope to see that their confidence has not been mistaken.—*Subscribe.*

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